

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Claims 1, 8-15, 17-20, 23-25, 43 and 44 stand allowed. Claims 8-11 are revised to conform with U.S. practice. Typographical errors are corrected in claims 18-19 and 23.

The Examiner required submission of a Sequence Listing to comply with 37 CFR § 1.821 et seq. and amendment of the brief description of the drawings to include sequence identifiers for the mouse and human melusin proteins.

Paper and computer readable forms of the Sequence Listing do not add new matter, and their contents are the same. It is respectfully submitted that the attached complies with 37 CFR § 1.821 et seq. Otherwise, prompt notice of any defects in the Sequence Listing is earnestly solicited and additional time is requested to comply.

Having fully responded to the pending Office Action, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit an early Notice to that effect. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if additional information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:                     /Gary R. Tanigawa/                      
Gary R. Tanigawa  
Reg. No. 43,180

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100